

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, PFOR, IZ

SUBJECT: SADDAM HUSSEIN ON PROMOTION OF ARAB SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN ADDRESSED ARAB FEDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COUNCILS IN BAGHDAD MAY 28 AND GAVE HIS VIEWS ON SHORTCOMINGS OF ARAB SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ON WAHT ARAB STRATEGY SHOULD BE. SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS REMARKS, HOWEVER, GOES CONSIDERABLY BEYOND PROMOTION OF SCIENCE. EXCERPTS FOLLOW (SLIGHTLY PARAPHRASED):

2. ATTAINMENT OF ARAB GOALS REGARDING SCIENCE HAS FALLEN SHORT OF OUR EXPECTATION, PARTLY BECAUSE ARAB NATION HAS SUFFERED DREADFUL SETBACKS, SUCH AS ON JUNE 5, 1967. ARABS GREAT NEGLECT OF MODERN SCIENCE WAS DRAMATICALLR DISCOVERED IN POST 1967 WAR PERIOD. TO RECTIFY THIS ARABS MUST DEVELOP STRATEGIC

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THINKING AND NATIONALIST UNITARY ORGANIZATION TO OPERATE IN AN EFFECTIVE FASHION.

3. I SAY IN AN EFFECTIVE FASHION BECAUSE THERE ARE SOME WHO SET STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES BUT ARE GOVERNED BY EMOTIONALISM. OTHERS SETTLE DOWN TO MODEST AND HUMBLE OBJECTIVES ALONG ROAD TOWARD UNITY. HOWEVER, THE ARABS HAVE LEARNED ON BOTH SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL LEVELS THAT THEY SHOULD TAKE WHAT IS AVAILABLE WITHOUT LOSING SIGHT OF STRATEGIC GOALS. WORK FOR UNITY CANNOT POSSIBLY FOLLOW ONE SINGLE PATH. THERE ARE SEVERAL PATHS OPEN TO IT, IN ECONOMICS, POLITICAL THINKING, ARTS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN IRAQ SHOULD BE STUDIED. ARAB SCIENTISTS FLED THEIR HOME COUNTRIES NOT IN QUEST FOR MONEY BUT TO FIND THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK. THE SCIENTIST, LIKE AN ARTIST, NEEDS A SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE. PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE WORK AND PRODUCTION OF THE SCIENTIST. A SCIENTIST LIVING IN A STATE OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY OR IN A STATE WHERE DUE RESPECT IS NOT SHOWN TO SCIENCE WILL SOONER OR LATER FEEL HIMSELF A STRANGER AND LEAVE. THIS IS THE DECISIVE FACTOR WHICH HAS LED SO MANY ARABS TO GO ABROAD. ONCE THE ARABS MANAGE TO REVERSE THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND CREATE THE ATMOSPHERE WHERE SCIENTISTS CAN HAVE PSYCHOLOGICAL SATISFACTION, THE ARABS WILL BE FORTUNATE INDEED.

4. SCIENCE IS NOT LIMITED TO ONE LABORATORY. SCIENCE CONSISTS OF LINKS SUPPLEMENTARY ONE TO THE OTHER. A LINK EXISTING IN AMERICA CANNOT FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY FROM A LINK EXISTING IN USSR. IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT IN TIME OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE THIS FACT HAS ASSUMED GREATER SIGNIFICANCE ON ACCOUNT OF SYSTEMATIC EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC DATA AND BECAUSE NATIONS OF THE WORLD CANNOT LIVE IN ISOLATION.

5. COMMENT: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: SIGNIFICANCE OF SPEECH IS THAT IT PROVIDES ONE OF FEW PUBLIC AFFIRMATIONS OF NEW DIRECTIONS SADDAM HUSSEIN IS TAKING IRAQ: I.E. PRAGMATIC APPROACH WITHOUT RENOUNCING LONG TERM STRATEGIC GOALS; MANY ROADS TO ARAB UNITY; AND NECESSITY OF DEALING WITH ALL NATIONS, INCLUDING U.S., TO ACHIEVE IRAQ'S MODERNIZATION. NEW ELEMENT IS IMPORTANCE SADDAM PUT ON CREATION OF PROPER ENVIRONMENT TO INSURE THAT HIGHLY TRAINED IRAQIS REMAIN IN IRAQ. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THERE IS BASIC CONTRADICTION BETWEEN IRAQ'S POLICE STATE ENVIRONMENT
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AND ITS DESIRE TO ATTRACT IRAQI AND FOREIGN TECHNICIANS AND SCIENTISTS. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOI ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THIS CONTRADICTION.
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